Status of Institute

700. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The present status of Sri Swamy Ramananda Thirtha Institute Project at Bhoodan Pochampally in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which the classes will be started at the Institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Andhra Pradesh Government, Swami Ramananda Tirtha Rural Institute has started functioning and is currently located in a rented building with a library, classrooms, office and other infrastructure to organise short-term courses. During 1997-98, the Institute has organised three one-day courses-cum-seminars on rural education. A six-weeks intensive training programme for 30 handloom weavers is scheduled to be held in December, 1997.

Damage of Bridges on NHs in West Bengal and Assam

701. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bridges on National Highways damaged in West Bengal and Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of bridges out of them repaired and the time by which the remaining bridges are likely to be repaired; and

(c) the total amount likely to be incurred on the repair of these bridges?

THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yearwise number of bridges damaged is indicated below:

Year	West Bengal	Assam
1994-95	Nil	Nil
1995-96	Nil	Nil
1996-97	1	1

(b) Both the bridges have since been repaired.

(c) An amount Rs. 58.82 lakhs was incurred.

Parthenium Menace

702. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Parthenium (Congress Grass) is menacingly spreading in India at a fast rate;

(b) if so, the places where it is abundantly found and its harmful effects on the environment and animals who eat this grass;

(c) whether Bangalore is having high concentration of Parthenium and is causing respiratory diseases; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken to control the growth of Parthenium?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes. Sir,

(b) and (c) It was first observed in Pune during 1955. It has now virtually spread to almost all the States of India. It is a dominating weed of uncultivated land, road side, unbuilt areas of developing residential colonies, river banks, orchards, forests and crop fields. It is an annual weed which causes allergic symptoms like dermatitis, allergic rhinitia (Hay fever), asthma and bronchitis. The alkaloids like lectone and parthenin located in the leaves and stem are responsible for causing dermatitis. Pollens are claimed to create asthmatic and allergic complications.

(d) Several studies and programmes have been initiated to check its rapid spread and eradication. Attempts have been made to summarize the research findings of various preventive, manual, mechanical, chemical and biological control methods.

[Translation]

Development of Tourism Centres

703. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Uttar Pradesh for the development of Tourism Centres during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received request from State Govt. for providing more funds for promoting tourism centres and their development;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Govt. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India has sanctioned projects for development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years as per details given below:

Year	(Rs.in lakhs)
1994-95	223.80
1995-96	31.10
1996-97	271.96

(b) to (d) The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Govt., has prioritised 21 projects estimated at Rs. 412.50 lakhs for tourism development in Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98.

[English]

Gharanas of Classical Music and Dance

704. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the list of "gharanas" of classical music and dance recognised by the Government of India;

(b) whether these gharanas are facing stark poverty and are engaged in the menial jobs; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) The Government does not formally recognise or derecongise the "Gharanas" of classical music and dance of the country.

(b) No particular information is available regarding stark poverty of any gharana and individual artist engaged in menial jobs.

(c) The Government through its various agencies and schemes such as Documentation, financial assistance, training programmes and performances, project grants, Awards and honours etc., provides support to artists belonging to different gharanas of dance and music. On occasions, Government also gives financial relief to artists who may be in indigent circumstances.

Power Projects Pending Clearance In Kerala

705. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many power projects submitted by the Kerala are pending with the Government for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Four-Power projects from Kerala are pending with the Ministry for environmental clearance. The project-wise details and reasons for pendency are:

(i) 150 MW Combined Cycle Power Project at Travancore Cochin Chemical Ltd. Premises, Udyogmandal by M/s BSES Ltd.	Project is under consideration for final decision.
(ii) 109.91 MW DG Power Plant at Kanjikode, Palkkad in Kerala by M/s W.I.Services Estates Limited.	Additional information is awaited from the Project authorities.
(iii) 163 MW Adirapally Hydro Electric project by Kerala State Electricity Board.	Additional information has been received only recently.
(iv) Kuriarkutty Karappara Hydro Electric Project by Kerala State Electricity Board.	Additional information from Kerala State Electricity Board is awaited.

Telephone Adalats

706. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL, New Delhi had introduced 'Telephone Adalats' some time back and has discontinued the system of introducing Adalats now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which these Adalats are likely to be reintroduced by MTNL;

(d) the number of 'Telephone Adalats' held in Delhi during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the details of cases disposed off therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Sir, MTNL Delhi has been holding Telephone Adalats since 1987 and the practice has not been discontinued till date. As far as possible, these Adalats are held quarterly.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(d) and (e) The number of Telephone Adalats held, the No. of cases settled therein, for the last three years by MTNL Delhi are given below.

Year	No. of Adalats held	No cases settled
1994-95	4	4211
1995-96	3	3359
1996-97	4	3111